GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:184
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2005
SEAFOOD EXPORTERS .
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra has emerged as a major seafood exporter subsequent to the ravaging of shrimp farms on the Southern coast by Tsunami;

(b) if so, the details of various seafoods exported from Maharashtra after the Tsunami;

(c) the details of arrangements and facilities provided by the Government to the exporters of the State;

(d) whether seafood exporters have made any representations to the Government; and

(e) if so, the details of their demands and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In order to increase the exports of marine products from India including the State of Maharashtra, Government have been taking several steps, which include schemes for extending financial assistance to the seafood processing industry; steps to upgrade processing facilities to meet international standards of hygiene and quality; expansion of aquaculture; imparting training to aquaculture farmers to adopt sound management practices to prevent outbreak of diseases; assistance to produce value-added products for export; marketing support; etc.

(d) and (e) The Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI) have been representing to the Government from time to time. In order to address the issue of sickness in the seafood sector, the seafood export industry has broadly proposed the following:
i) One time settlement for those units selecting the exit option;
ii) Rehabilitation package for units found to be potentially viable; and
iii) Consolidation or merger of 2 or more units for attaining economies of scale.

The matter had been taken up with the Indian Banks` Association (IBA) to formulate rehabilitation package for sick industries in the seafood-processing sector. The banks are prepared to consider a revival / restructuring of all those units that are potentially viable on a case-to-case basis. For exit route to promoters for non-viable sick units, the individual banks are prepared to examine this within their policy framework for compromise settlements.